Canal Current

A wave of information for Cape Coral's Canalwatch volunteers

Newsletter: 3rd Quarter 2008

Monofilament Madness

At Tarpon Point Marina

Keep Lee County Beautiful is at it again with this year's Monofilament Madness. This event will coincide with the Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival and will take place at three locations. The Mound House on Fort Myers Beach, The Waterfront Restaurant in St. James City, Pine Island and Tarpon Point Marina, Cape Coral will be launching points for paddlers and boaters to go out and gather fishing lines and other trash that careless folks have discarded.

These events will take place Sunday October 26th from 8:00 am until noon with a luncheon provided by Keep Lee County Beautiful, sponsored by Sam Galloway Ford.

For more information on how you could be a part of this great cause please contact Keep Lee County Beautiful at 334-3488 or check out their web address at www.klcb.org/monofilamentmadness.htm
For more information about the Calusa Blueway Paddling Trails, contact Betsy Claton at 433-3855 or visit their web address at www.calusabluewaypaddlingfestival.com/index.html

In This Issue:

Native Plant Profile

Dahoon Holly

Ilex cassine

Dahoon holly is typically found in wet areas along its native range throughout the southeast United States. However, it has found its way into home landscaping and does well in low areas that are moist during the summer.

The Dahoon holly could be considered an understory tree in its natural habitat among cypress trees, but does exceptionally well in full sun and can grow to 30 to 40 feet. Like other hollies, the Dahoon fruits red berries in the fall and winter, which attracts local as well as migrating birds. It should be noted that hollies are dioecious (dī -'ē-shəs), meaning that there are separate male and female plants. Only the female plant produces berries. For exceptional fruit, a male tree should be planted nearby.

www.plantatlas.usf.edu/defalt.asp

Questions? Comments? Let us know!

(239)574-0785
Harry: hphillip@capecoral.net
Kim: kcressman@capecoral.net

Portrait of the Canalwatch Volunteers

Thanks to everybody who's participated in our survey over the last few months! We've gotten more insight into the issues that are important to you, and that insight will help us shape the program as we move forward.

Some of the questions let us learn more about who you are outside of Canalwatch… and those are the results we're sharing this month.

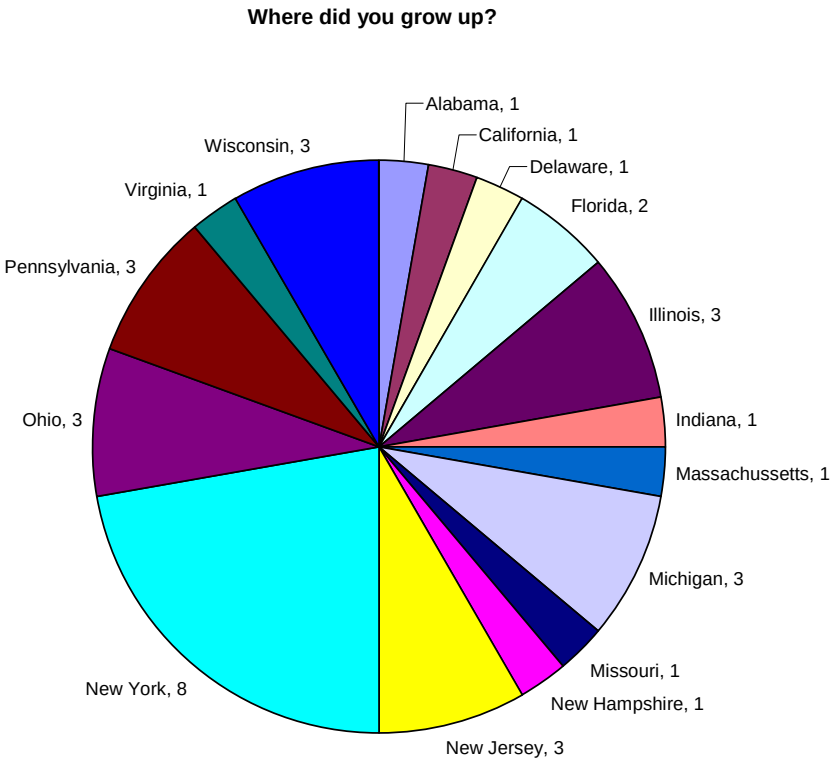
You're involved.
Not only do we have a City Councilmember among our ranks; many of you are involved in other community groups.

Northwest Neighborhood Association	Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW)
Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife	Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation	CCPD Citizens Volunteer Unit
Cape Water Action	American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
Community Emergency Response Team	Engineers of Cape Coral
CC Republican Club	Cape Coral Parks and Rec

You're not from Florida.
Only two of you grew up in Florida. Here's the breakdown:

How long have you lived in Florida?

Yrs	# responses
<5	6
5-10	7
11-15	5
>15	6



You're dog lovers.

Favorite Animal	# responses
Anoles	1
Birds	1
Butterflies	1
Cats	1
Dogs	8
Ducks	1
Koala	1
Otters	1
Panda	1
People	1
Porpoise	1
Snakes	1
Tigers	1
Yellow Nape Parrots	1

You have varying taste in plants.

Favorite Plant	# responses
Aloe Vera	1
Bahama Senna	1
Bird of Paradise	1
Butterfly Weed	1
Coconut Palm	1
Daisy	1
Dwarf Poincianna	1
Firebush	2
Florida Flame Vine	1
Florida Privet	1
Hibiscus	1
Ixora - Croton	1
Mahogony Trees	1
Mamey Croton	1
Orchid	2
Royal Palm	1
Scarlet Penta	1
Tomato	1
Trumpet Flower	1

November Social

November 5th, 2008, 11am – 12 noon

Bring your sample to Rotary Park, have some donuts and coffee, and socialize with other Canalwatch volunteers! We'll have a short presentation by a guest speaker at about 11:30.

Please RSVP so we can bring your new bottle: 574-0785 or kcressman@capecoral.net.

Did you know?

ERD has a show on Cape TV - Channel 14! We tape ***Environmentally Speaking*** once a month, and the episode comes on 4 times per day: 7:00 am, 2:00 pm, 10:30 pm, and 2:00 am (for you insomniacs).

If you miss it, you can watch the archived version online. Go to www.capecoral.net and from the menu bar on the left, select "Watch" then "CapeTV 14".

Here are our topics so far this year:
January – Environmental New Year's Resolutions. Hosts: Harry and Kim.
February – Burrowing Owl Festival. Host: Kraig; Guests Pascha Donaldson and Tom Allen, Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife.
March – Litter. Hosts: Kraig and Kim; Guest Trish Fancher, Keep Lee County Beautiful.
April – Manatees. Hosts: Kraig and Kim; Guest Dee Grant from FL Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.
May – Nile Monitor Lizards. Hosts: Kraig and Bob.
June – Water Quality 101. Hosts: Kraig and Kim.
July – Yard Makeovers. Host: Kraig. Guests Julie and Joe Maddux.
August – Lee County Animal Services. Host: Harry; Guest Ria Brown.
September – Lizards of Cape Coral. Hosts: Kraig and Harry.
October – Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife. Host: Kraig; Guest Dr. PJ Deitschel, CROW.

We also do some episodes of ***Public Works***. This show comes on at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 9:30 pm, and 1:00 am. You can watch archived episodes at www.capecoral.net (see above).

Here are episodes we've done in 2008:
February – Irrigation/Drought. Hosts: Kraig and Harry.
June – Planting in Public Places. Hosts: Kraig and Harry.
July – Water Quality and Swales. Host: Kraig; Guest Jay Saxena from Services Division.
August – Letters/FAQs. Hosts Kraig and Harry.

3rd Quarter 2008 Data

bd = below detection benchmark numbers: Marked data are in the highest 20% of values found by Hand et. al, 1988.

	July 2008						August 2008						September 2008						
Benchmark	NO2 <1.0	NO3 <1.0	NH3 none given	TKN	T-N <2.0	T-PO4 <0.46	NO2 <1.0	NO3 <1.0	NH3 none given	TKN	T-N <2.0	T-PO4 <0.46	NO2 <1.0	NO3 <1.0	NH3 none given	TKN	T-N <2.0	T-PO4 <0.46	Avg TSI
1A	bd	bd	0.6	1.2	1.2	0.17	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	0.20	bd	0.06	0.3	1.7	1.76	0.25	65.95
1D	bd	bd	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.07	bd	bd	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.19	bd	0.21	0.3	2.7	2.91	0.26	64.29
3F	bd	bd	0.2	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.10	bd	0.14	0.1	1	1.14	0.12	48.86
4D	bd	bd	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.06													42.50
4E							bd	bd	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.15	bd	0.17	0.2	1.2	1.37	0.24	59.96
6F	bd	bd	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.10	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.19	bd	0.13	0.3	1.4	1.53	0.24	57.81
6G							bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.17	bd	bd	0.1	1.4	1.4	0.23	61.73
7B	bd	bd	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.10	bd	bd	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.17	bd	0.16	0.2	1.4	1.56	0.25	58.48
10B	bd	bd	0.2	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.10							46.73
11C	bd	bd	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.12													55.99
11D	bd	bd	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.09	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.14	bd	0.11	0.1	1.5	1.61	0.23	56.22
13A	bd	bd	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.12													50.13
15D	bd	bd	bd	1.3	1.3	0.14	bd	bd	0.1	1.0	1.0	0.10	bd	bd	0.05	1.3	1.3	0.08	62.66
17B	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd													50.09
19D							bd	bd	0.1	1.6	1.6	0.15	bd	0.07	0.2	2.6	2.67	0.29	71.72
19E	bd	bd	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.11	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.22	bd	0.16	0.2	1.8	1.96	0.31	61.74
19G	bd	bd	0.1	0.6	0.6	0.13	bd	bd	0.1	1.1	1.1	0.15	bd	0.12	0.2	1.3	1.42	0.23	62.15
19H	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.09	bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.16	bd	0.14	0.2	1.7	1.84	0.22	61.93
19I							bd	bd	bd	1.0	1.0	0.15							65.42
20E							bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.10							60.13
21D	bd	bd	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.17	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.10	bd	0.05	bd	1.3	1.35	0.13	64.62
21F	bd	bd	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.16	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.14	bd	0.1	0.1	1.1	1.2	0.18	59.66
22C	bd	bd	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.15	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.08	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	0.05	48.77
22F	bd	bd	0.4	1.0	1.0	0.25	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.08	bd	bd	bd	1	1	0.07	66.58
26A	bd	bd	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.05													54.48
26C	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	bd													58.16
26D	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.06	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	bd	51.38
28D	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	47.26
35A	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	45.86
41A	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	bd	0.05	bd	0.8	0.85	0.08	47.09
43A	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	bd	0.09	bd	0.1	0.19	bd	41.31

48A	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	bd	0.05	bd	0.7	0.75	bd	43.22
52B	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.07	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	47.61
55B	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.06	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.11	57.40
58E													bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	bd	47.15
58F	bd	bd	0.6	0.8	0.8	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	bd	42.21
58G	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	bd	bd	bd	bd	1	1	bd	46.86
59B	bd	bd	0.3	0.7	0.7	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	bd	49.08
60B	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	46.38
62C	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	43.58
64B	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.06							bd	0.14	0.3	0.9	1.04	0.16	47.07
64C	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	0.06	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.09	bd	0.19	0.2	1	1.19	0.18	45.97
66A	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.2	0.2	bd	36.93
67C	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	bd	bd	1.2	0.5	0.5	0.11	bd	0.09	0.3	0.9	0.99	0.14	47.37
70E	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.06	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	0.05	47.69
72A	bd	bd	bd	0.9	0.9	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	0.05	46.82
74B	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd							47.67
74C	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	0.05	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	0.05							50.36
80A	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	bd	bd	bd	bd	0	0.05	bd	38.59
83A	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.4	0.4	bd	54.13
85C	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.3	bd	bd	bd	0.3	0.6	0.6	bd	40.93
88B	bd	bd	bd	0.5	0.5	bd	bd	bd	bd	1.1	1.1	0.05	bd	0.06	bd	0.6	0.66	0.06	53.67
90A	bd	bd	bd	0.8	0.8	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.7	0.7	bd	bd	bd	bd	0.6	0.6	bd	48.19
Median	**bd**	**bd**	**0.30**	**0.60**	**0.60**	**0.095**	**bd**	**bd**	**0.25**	**0.70**	**0.70**	**0.105**	**bd**	**0.12**	**0.20**	**0.90**	**1.00**	**0.18**	**50.09**
Max	**bd**	**bd**	**0.80**	**1.30**	**1.30**	**0.25**	**bd**	**bd**	**1.20**	**1.60**	**1.60**	**0.22**	**bd**	**0.21**	**0.30**	**2.70**	**2.91**	**0.31**	**71.72**

NO2 = Nitrite (inorganic)	TKN = Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (organic + NH4)	High levels of nutrients in our canals can indicate the presence of fertilizer runoff or effluent from wastewater or septic systems. Excessive nutrients can lead to nuisance plant growth and algal blooms.
NO3 = Nitrate (inorganic)	TN = Total Nitrogen (inorganic + organic)	
NH3 = Ammonia (inorganic)	TPO4 = Total Phosphate	

All nutrient concentrations shown in mg/L

TSI = Trophic State Index, a quick indicator of canal health.
41 sites this quarter scored as GOOD (<60). 11 sites were FAIR (60-70), and one was POOR (>70).

Rainy season is definitely here, reducing visibility in canals and increasing the amount of nutrients getting into the waterways. Over the next few months, as we return to the dry season, TSI scores should go back down.

October

1st Canalwatch

19th – 26th

Ding Darling Days
www.dingdarlingdays.com

23rd

SWFCEE/Audubon Environmental Breakfast
7-9 am, Riverside Event Center
3061 E Riverside Dr., Ft. Myers
Bring your own coffee mug

25th - Nov. 2nd

Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival
Info: 433-3855

26th

Monofilament Madness
8 am, Tarpon Point Marina
Info: 334-3488

November

5th Canalwatch
Social at Rotary Park
11am -12 noon

7th

Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Intro Class
Rotary Park
Info: 549-4606

7th – 9th

Coconut Festival
www.cocofest.com

14th

Mangrove Gathering
7:30-10 pm, Rutenberg Park

22nd

Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival
www.chnep.org

Cape Water Action Mtg.
1-3 pm, Cape Coral Library

December

3rd Canalwatch

All Month

All about Manatees
Manatee Park, Lee County
Info: 690-5030

City of Cape Coral
Environmental Resources Division
P.O. Box 150027
Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027